



The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

# Emergency Plan Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2



## Laura Bush Hosts Mothers-To-Mothers-To-Be

### FAREWELL AMBASSADOR TOBIAS



Thank you for your inspiration, wisdom and willingness to engage with South Africans from all walks of life.

In every situation, you demonstrated those most important of all attributes in Africa: humility and mutual respect. Your style of leadership has allowed us to make progress together with South Africans, and has shown the world that the Emergency Plan is a genuine expression of the generosity of the American People.

With sincere gratitude,  
The South Africa HIV/AIDS Task Force



Laura Bush got another honorary title to add to first lady on Monday, when a group of HIV-positive mothers visiting from South Africa said they consider her their "grandmother."

Mrs. Bush invited the women to the White House after meeting them during a trip to South Africa last year. She said she was inspired by the work the women are doing to help each other cope with the devastating diagnosis, which many discover for the first time during prenatal care.

"As a mother, I know it must seem like the end of the world to learn that you have HIV or AIDS, and to think that your baby might be born with HIV, too," the first lady told dignitaries gathered in the East Room to hear the women tell stories and sing together.

Babalwa Mbono, the senior site coordinator at a maternity unit Mrs. Bush visited outside Cape Town, told how she discovered she was HIV-positive in 2002 when she was pregnant with her second child. She said her sister had already died from AIDS and it turned out her

husband had the virus, too. But she said she has learned to live well with the diagnosis and is helping others cope.

"We would like to say to Mrs. Bush, keep up the work that you're doing with HIV/AIDS," she said. "We want people to be able to help groups like this that we have in South Africa in Cape Town, who can be able to be strong and beat up the HIV."

The women were part of The Mothers' Programmes, a private organization that receives assistance through President Bush's five-year, \$15 billion anti-AIDS effort.

"We're including Mrs. Bush," Mbono said as she introduced the rest of her group. "Mrs. Bush is our grandmother."

By Nedra Pickler, Associated Press Writer

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## Project Phidisa Launches its Fifth Site

On March 7, 2006 the South African National Defence Force marked the opening of the fifth site in Project Phidisa in Bloemfontein. Project Phidisa is a comprehensive HIV and AIDS research project involving SANDF members and their dependants. The project aims to answer research questions about antiretroviral treatment in the mili-



Dr. Cliff Lane at the launch of the Phidisa Site

tary and its impact on combat readiness.

Project Phidisa also aims to provide policy makers with strategic information on HIV and AIDS management. Phidisa will investigate nutrition and traditional interventions on HIV and AIDS. This project aims to build capacity in the South African Military Health Service to conduct research on other diseases that affect military force preparedness.

## Deputy U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator visits South Africa

Dr. Mark Dybul, Deputy U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Chief Medical Officer, visited South Africa from February 15-20, 2006. He participated in the Enhancing Quality of Care meeting with PEPFAR implementing partners. He also visited Emergency Plan-supported sites providing prevention, care and treatment services in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Western Cape Provinces. During his visit, Dr. Dybul met with national and provincial health authorities and affirmed the core prin-

ple of the Emergency Plan is to support the efforts of the South African Government. Dr. Dybul visited programs featuring innovative public-private partnerships that will have a significant impact on HIV/AIDS. He was very impressed by the capacity and potential of South Africa to tackle the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Dr. Dybul offered support and encouragement to PEPFAR implementing partners as they continue to make a real impact on the lives of thousands of South Africans.



**Deputy U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator  
Mark Dybul**

## Enhancing Quality of Care Meeting



**Participants at the Enhancing Quality of Care Meeting**

Quality of care includes meeting the patient's individual needs in a timely manner, providing services within the appropriate policies and guidelines, providing comprehensive care (which includes appropriate referrals), and ensuring that systems are in place to measure and evaluate the care provided.

Quality starts with the leadership of the South African Government, which has established the Comprehensive Plan and the standards, policies and protocols which all of us follow as we support implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Quality comes from empowering health care workers to do their best and giving them the resources they need.

Quality requires involving People Living with HIV and AIDS in all of our activities, and learning from them what their needs are.

Quality flows directly from the South African experts who are among the best practitioners in the world.

Quality is improved by integrating programs that provide counseling and testing with programs that provide ARV treatment, or integrating programs that provide TB care with HIV programs.

Quality can be spread by sharing issues, lessons learned and best practices among those who are out there fighting HIV on the front lines.

We thank all participants that attended the meeting. The presentations are available on the South African Emergency Plan Website:

<http://pepfar.pretoria.usembassy.gov>

Please visit our website and go to "Events", "Presentations" and "Enhancing Quality of Care"

## Caring for South Africa's Vulnerable Children

Caregiver Bongiwe Gingo's love for children drove her to leave the rural settings of the Eastern Cape to live in the vibrant city of Pretoria. "I love children and I always want to see them happy" says Bongiwe as she carefully tip-toes amongst the rows of sleeping children on the floor at the Luvuyo Orphanage Home in Soshanguve, Pretoria.

Luvuyo is a home to 18 orphans between the age of 0 and 7 who have been affected by HIV/AIDS, and provides care and support to an additional 70 non-resident children. The 24-year-old Bongiwe and the other caregivers at the orphanage also take care of six HIV positive children through their home-based care program. "Every week we visit the six children at their homes. Besides visiting the children we are now able to provide them with food and



**Caregiver Bongiwe attending to the children at Luvuyo Orphanage**

**On February 15, 2006, U.S. Chargé d' Affaires Donald Teitelbaum visited Luvuyo to view the progress made through the grant and applaud the efforts of the home's staff.**



clothes."

The Luvuyo Orphanage Home is one of 51 community-based organizations that received funding in 2005 through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Small Grants Program. Luvuyo received funding to improve the facilities at the orphanage, train caregivers, and support the Home's daily needs. "The money we received helped us as we managed to get beds, clothes and food for the children" says Bongiwe.

## Notice Board



### Public Affairs Section

The Embassy's Public Affairs Section has established provisional dates for partner media skills and success story training, listed below. The training is designed to introduce partner representatives to the fundamentals of dealing with the media, including creating press releases and managing media events. In addition, there will be practical sessions on interview skills, photography, and drafting of success stories. All partners are invited to send a representative or representatives.

To reserve a place for one of these sessions, please contact Mark Schlachter ([schlachtm@state.gov](mailto:schlachtm@state.gov)) or Sindi Zwane ([zwanesx@state.gov](mailto:zwanesx@state.gov)), tel: 012-431-4386.

### Dates and Locations

April 4-5	Johannesburg	July 10-11	Polokwane
April 25-26	Cape Town	July 24-25	Nelspruit
May 10-11	Gauteng	August 7-8	Bloemfontein
May 16-17	East London	August 21-22	Durban



### Policy Guidance Button

There is a new button on the South African Emergency Plan Website. It can be found at "PEPFAR @ WORK", "Policy Guidance"

This button is for South Africa Task Force Policy Guidance and all updates from the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator.

Current items listed:

- [ABC Guidance](#)
- [HIV/AIDS Palliative Care Guidance](#)
- [South Africa Strategic Information Manual](#)
- [HHS/FDA Approved Drugs](#)
- [ARV SA Registered List](#)

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## Notice Board

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### Call for Abstracts

The final deadline for abstract submissions is April 3, 2006 and a copy of your abstracts must be sent to your Activity Manager.

Please visit <http://www.blpdev.com/blsmeetings/2606int/CallForAbstracts.cfm> for full details.

*The South Africa partner delegation will be finalized by mid-April 2006.*

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## South Africa Emergency Plan Calendar

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### March, 2006

- March 15 Distribution of Semi-Annual Report Instructions
- March 31 Deadline for Submission of Concept Papers under Annual Program Statement 674-06-002

### April, 2006

- April 3-7 M&E Training and Public Affairs Training
- April 21 Semi-Annual Report Information Due from Partners

### May, 2006

- May 10-11 OVC Partner Technical Meeting

### June, 2006

- June 12-15 Annual Meeting for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Durban South Africa

### July, 2006

- TBD Annual Meeting for South Africa PEPFAR Partners
- TBD COP Instructions and Funding Levels Distributed to Partners

### August, 2006

- TBD COP Templates Due from Partners
- TBD New Partner Orientation

### September, 2006

- September 29 FY07 COP due to Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator